



Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*  
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*

**32<sup>nd</sup> Saturday/Sunday after Pentecost**

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org      January 16-17, 2021

## Welcome!

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we are glad you're with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr Thomas, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering basket as your offering today. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

## This Week

### Saturday, January 16

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, January 17

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

### Tuesday, January 19

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Thursday, January 21

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

### Saturday, January 23

10 am Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, January 24

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School



#### DATES TO NOTE

**Orthodox Great Lent Begins Monday, March 15**

*Western Easter is on Sunday, April 4*

**Orthodox Pascha is on Sunday, May 2**

## Announcements

➤ **The St. Nicholas Food Pantry needs your donations!** Our monthly food pantry will be open to the community on the last Saturday of each month from 4-5 pm. Saturday, January 30th, 2020 will be the first day. Please help support this parish ministry and our local community by bringing non-perishable donations to stock our pantry. All donations can be placed in the donation box by the back door of the church basement. Please contact Mat, Ashley or Kate Skowron for additional information.

➤ The **Annual Parish Meeting** will take place on Sunday, January 31 after the Divine Liturgy. Only members in good standing may participate. Officer and organization reports must be submitted by today to Kristie Mertz.

➤ **Church offering envelopes are now available at the Candle Desk.** Individuals or families who generally donate via automatic payment may not have been issued envelopes. If you wish to have a set of envelopes or you cannot locate yours, please see Kristie Mertz.



## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* Geroge Shaytar, Sandi Tirpak, Paul Yewisiak, *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Olga Tryszyn.

➤ **Vigil Lights** from the **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends and family, especially Cheryl, John, Gregory, Mary, Daniel, and Kayla. From **Annaliese Mertz** for the departed servants Dylan Paclawski and Caroline Mertz-Teunissen. From **Jeff Kopycinski** for the health of Luann, recovering from surgery. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants (father) Charles, (brother) Raymond, (grandmother) Susan Wasilko. From **Mat, Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the newly departed servant of God Dylan Paclawski and Dn Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents) Charles and Mary, (grandmother) Susan Wasilko (1-15-1980), (brother) Ray (1-10-2017); for the health of Phyllis Esau. From **Charles Wasilko** for the departed servants Baba Wasilko and brother Raymond. From **John Kowalcheck and Olga Cozza** for the health of Galina Vilкова; for the health of Teresa Slimak on her birthday.

## Thank You

➤ to all those who generously gave to support Yelena and Henry Paclawski in helping with funeral expenses for Dylan. \$2,100 was presented to them on behalf of the parish. Additionally, many parishioners helped to cook and serve the repast after the Funeral, and of course the choir who sang for the Panikhida on Monday and the Funeral service on Tuesday.

**St Nicholas Church will strive to glorify God through Orthodox Christian worship, sincere love and care for one another, and service to those in need around us.**

## This Week in Church School

**Today's lesson:** Judges and Gideon

**Scripture reference:** Judges

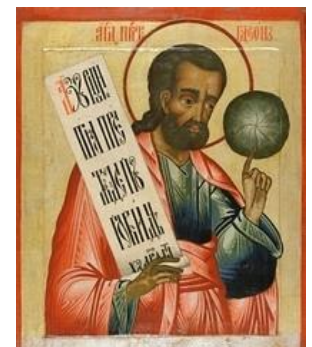
**Questions to ask/review:**

- Why was God angry with the Israelites?
- Why did God bother to save them after their consistent rebellion?
- How did God call Gideon?
- How did Gideon destroy Baal? Why?
- What was the purpose of the fleece?
- How did Gideon select his men? How did he win the battle?
- Why did the Hebrews prosper when a judge was alive?
- Should Christians expect all good times simply because they believe in God? Why?
- What similarities do you see between yourself and Gideon? Differences?
- In what ways was God at work in Gideon's life? In yours?
- How did he speak to Gideon? To you?

**Suggested Activities at home:**

Have fun by practicing drinking water like Gideon's 300 men.

**Prayer:** Lord, lead us and teach us as You did Gideon.



# Hymns and Readings for Saturday, Jan 16

## **Tone 2 Troparion of Saturday**

Apostles, martyrs, and prophets,  
Holy hierarchs, saints, and righteous ones,  
Having fought the good fight and kept the faith,  
Ye have boldness towards the Saviour.  
Intercede for us with Him, for He is good. //  
and pray that He may save our souls.

## **Tone 4 Troparion (St Nicholas)**

You appeared to your flock as a rule of faith,  
an image of humility, and a teacher of  
abstinence.

Because of your lowliness heaven was opened to  
you!

Because of your poverty riches were granted to  
you!

O holy Bishop Nicholas,  
pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of  
ages. Amen.*

## **Tone 8 Kontakion of Saturday**

The universe offers thee the God-bearing  
martyrs,

As the first fruits of creation, O Lord and  
Creator, //

Through the Theotokos and their prayers  
establish Thy Church in peace.

## **Tone 8 Prokeimenon of Saturday (Psalm 31/32)**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O ye righteous.

## **Epistle of the Saturday (1 Thes 5:14-23)**

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who  
are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the  
weak, be patient with all. See that no one  
renders evil for evil to anyone, but always  
pursue what is good both for yourselves and for  
all.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in  
everything give thanks; for this is the will of  
God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise  
prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is  
good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you  
completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and  
body be preserved blameless at the coming of  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Gospel of the Saturday (Luke 12:32-40)**

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s  
good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell  
what you have and give alms; provide  
yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a  
treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where  
no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For  
where your treasure is, there your heart will be  
also.

“Let your waist be girded and your lamps  
burning; and you yourselves be like men who  
wait for their master, when he will return from  
the wedding, that when he comes and knocks  
they may open to him immediately. Blessed are  
those servants whom the master, when he  
comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to  
you that he will gird himself and have them sit  
down to eat, and will come and serve them. And  
if he should come in the second watch, or come  
in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are  
those servants. But know this, that if the master  
of the house had known what hour the thief  
would come, he would have watched and not  
allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore  
you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming  
at an hour you do not expect.”

## **Communion Hymn of Saturday**

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous. Praise befits

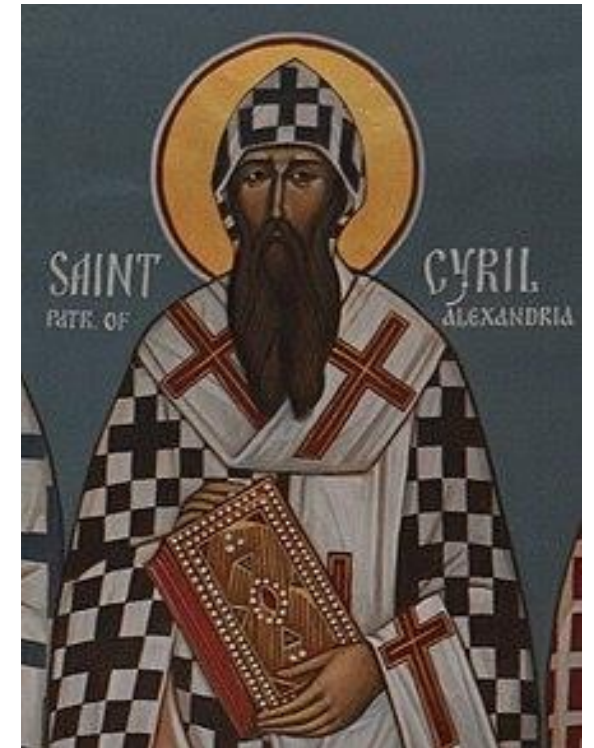
the just. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (Ps 33:1)

## **Commentary on Today’s Gospel**

And the way in which to lend it He next teaches  
us, saying; "Sell your possessions, and give  
alms. Make you purses that grow not old: and a  
treasure that fails not, eternal, in "heaven." And  
the very same the blessed David also teaches us  
in the Psalms, where he says by inspiration of  
every merciful and good man: "He has  
dispersed, and given to the poor, and his  
righteousness is stored up for ever." For worldly  
wealth has many foes: for thieves are numerous,  
and this world of ours is full of oppressors; of  
whom some are wont to plunder by secret  
means, while others use violence, and tear it  
away even from those who resist. But the wealth  
that is laid up above in heaven, no one injures:  
for God is its Keeper, Who sleeps not.

And besides it is a very absurd thing, that while  
we often entrust men of probity with our earthly  
wealth, and feel no fear lest any loss should  
result from our confidence in the uprightness of  
those who receive it; we will not trust it to God,  
Who receives from us these earthly things,  
so to speak, as a loan, and promises to give us  
things eternal, and that with usury. "For good  
measure," He says, "and pressed close, and  
weighing down the scale, and running over,  
shall they give into your bosom." And for the  
measure to run over, is a direct proof of its  
great abundance. Away then with this pleasure-  
loving wealth; this parent of base lusts; this  
inciter to carnal impurity; this friend of  
covetousness; this worker of boasting: which, as  
with indissoluble bonds, chains the human mind  
in effeminacy and indolence towards all that is  
good, and stretches out, so to speak, a stiff and  
haughty neck against God: for it yields not itself  
to that yoke which would lead it unto piety. And  
be gentle, and merciful, ready to communicate,  
and courteous. For the Lord is true, Who says;

"that where your treasure is, there is your heart  
also." For the whole earnestness of those who  
value these temporal things is set upon them;  
while those who wish for that which is in  
heaven, direct thither the eye of the mind. Bo  
therefore, as I said, friendly to your  
companions, and merciful. And the blessed Paul  
makes me speak unto you, where he writes;  
"Charge them who are rich in this world, that  
they be not high-minded, nor trust in riches,  
wherein is no reliance, but on God, Who gives us  
all things richly to enjoy: that they do good: that  
they be rich in good works, ready to give, and  
willing to share with others; laying up for  
themselves treasures that shall be a good  
foundation for that which is to come, that they  
may lay hold upon true life." These are the  
things which, if we earnestly practice, we shall  
become heirs of the kingdom of heaven, by  
Christ; by Whom and with Whom to God the  
Father be praise and dominion, with the Holy  
Spirit, for ever and over, Amen. (*St Cyril of  
Alexandria, 5<sup>th</sup> c*)



# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Jan 17

## **Tone 7 Troparion** (*Resurrection*)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.  
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change  
weeping into joy,  
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ  
God,  
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//  
granting the world great mercy.

## **Tone 4 Troparion** (*St Nicholas*)

You appeared to your flock as a rule of faith,  
an image of humility, and a teacher of  
abstinence.  
Because of your lowliness heaven was opened to  
you!  
Because of your poverty riches were granted to  
you!  
O holy Bishop Nicholas,  
pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

## **Tone 7 Kontakion** (*Resurrection*)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men  
captive,  
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying  
its powers.  
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and  
cry:  
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//  
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## **Tone 6 Kontakion** (*Theotokos*)

Steadfast protectress of Christians,  
constant advocate before the Creator,  
do not despise the cry of us sinners,  
but in your goodness come speedily to help us  
who call on you in faith.

Hasten to hear our intercessions and to  
intercede for us, O Theotokos  
For you always protect those who honor you.

## **Tone 7 Prokeimenon** (*Resurrection*)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The  
Lord shall bless His people with peace. (*Ps*  
*28/29:11*)

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (Colossians 1:12-18)

giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us  
to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints  
in the light. He has delivered us from the power  
of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of  
the Son of His love, in whom we have  
redemption through His blood, the forgiveness  
of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the  
firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things  
were created that are in heaven and that are on  
earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or  
dominions or principalities or powers. All things  
were created through Him and for Him. And He  
is before all things, and in Him all things  
consist. And He is the head of the body, the  
church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from  
the dead, that in all things He may have the  
preeminence.

## **Gospel of the Sunday** (Luke 18:18-27)

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good  
Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good?  
No one is good but One, that is, God. You know  
the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’  
‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear  
false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your  
mother.’ ”

And he said, “All these things I have kept from  
my youth.”

So when Jesus heard these things, He said to  
him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you  
have and distribute to the poor, and you will  
have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

But when he heard this, he became very  
sorrowful, for he was very rich.

And when Jesus saw that he became very  
sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those  
who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!  
For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye  
of a needle than for a rich man to enter the  
kingdom of God.”

And those who heard it said, “Who then can be  
saved?”

But He said, “The things which are impossible  
with men are possible with God.”

## **Communion Hymn of Sunday**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in  
the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia!

## Sayings of St Anthony

13. A hunter in the desert saw Abba Anthony  
enjoying himself with the brethren and he was  
shocked. Wanting to show him that it was  
necessary sometimes to meet the needs of the  
brethren, the old man said to him, "Put an  
arrow in your bow and shoot it." So he did. The  
old man then said, "Shoot another," and he did  
so. Then the old man said, "Shoot yet again," and  
the hunter replied "If I bend my bow so much I  
will break it." Then the old man said to him, "It  
is the same with the work of God. If we stretch  
the brethren beyond measure they will soon  
break. Sometimes it is necessary to come down  
to meet their needs." When he heard these

words the hunter was pierced by compunction  
and, greatly edified by the old man, he went  
away. As for the brethren, they went home  
strengthened.

5. The brothers praised a monk before Abba  
Anthony. When the monk came to see him,  
Anthony wanted to know how he would bear  
insults; and seeing that he could not bear them  
at all, he said to him, "You are like a village  
magnificently decorated on the outside, but  
destroyed from within by robbers."

16. A brother said to Abba Anthony, "Pray for  
me." The old man said to him, " I will have no  
mercy upon you, nor will God have any, if you  
yourself do not make an effort and if you do not  
pray to God.

17. One day some old men came to see Abba  
Anthony. In the midst of them was Abba Joseph.  
Wanting to test them, the old man suggested a  
text from the Scriptures, and, beginning with  
the youngest, he asked them what it meant.  
Each gave his opinion as he was able. But to  
each one the old man said, "You have not  
understood it." Last of all he said to Abba  
Joseph, "How would you explain this saying?"  
and he replied, "I do not know." Then Abba  
Anthony said, "Indeed, Abba Joseph has found  
the way, for he has said: 'I do not know.'"

24. It was revealed to Abba Anthony in his  
desert that there was one who was his equal in  
the city. He was a doctor by profession and  
whatever he had beyond his needs he gave to  
the poor, and every day he sang the Sanctus  
with the angels.

25. Abba Anthony said, "A time is coming when  
men will go mad, and when they see someone  
who is not mad, they will attack him saying,  
'You are mad, you are not like us.'"